



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDEPENDENCE FELON CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was charged in federal court today with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Michael J. Brown, 22, of Independence, Mo., was charged in a criminal complaint filed this afternoon in U.S. District Court in Kansas City.

The criminal complaint alleges that **Brown** was in possession of an Enfield rifle on Jan. 8, 2004, in Jackson County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Brown** has a 2002 criminal felony conviction for sale of a controlled substance.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the complaint, **Brown** was arrested after law enforcement officers executed a search warrant on his residence, the affidavit states.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and is not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Hasty. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow